

**Resolution endorsing House Bill 176 of the 128th Ohio General Assembly.
(Commissioners)**

WHEREAS, House Bill 176 sponsored by State Representatives Dan Stewart (D - Franklin County) and Ross McGregor (R - Clark County) would amend the Ohio Revised Code to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 176 has been introduced in the 128th General Assembly by bipartisan cosponsors, including Franklin County legislators, namely, State Representatives Stewart, Celeste, Garland, Heard, Harris, and Carney; and

WHEREAS, the most fundamental and honored principles of our national heritage affirm that all persons have certain rights that cannot be assigned, taken away, or compromised; and

WHEREAS, we know these inalienable rights include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, life and liberty cannot be enjoyed, nor happiness pursued, if a person is identified, persecuted or discriminated against on the basis of his or her inherent nature; and

WHEREAS, in concert with our national, cultural and political history of confronting discriminating practices and prohibiting their continuance, now comes the time to forever ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identification; and

WHEREAS, twenty-one states and sixteen Ohio cities have adopted laws or policies which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the intentional exclusion of persons denies the community the perspectives which nurture the development of new ideas, principles, products and services; and

WHEREAS, job applicants and employees should only be evaluated on the basis of their potential ability, or actual performance, to fulfill the duties of a job, and not on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity which are not determinates of a person's ability or performance; and

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WHEREAS, Franklin County competes with other employers to recruit and retain employees and since many Fortune 500 companies including five that are based within the County – namely AEP, Big Lots, Cardinal Health, Limited Brands, and Nationwide Insurance – prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

That the Franklin County Board of Commissioners endorses House Bill 176 of the 128th Ohio General Assembly which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Prepared by: Zak Talarek